

50 may include latching areas 52 defined by recesses formed within the mounting elements 50. The latching areas 52 may be utilized as a convenient location to attach bunge cords or other securing straps commonly utilized to hold objects on the roof rack system 10. The present invention may further include a locking mechanism 54 for securing the storage surface 20 in the second position 24.

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 30-34. Please add claims 35-39 as follows.

35. (NEW) A re-configurable vehicle roof rack system comprising:
a storage surface movable between a first position and a second position;
a first guide rail and a second guide rail affixed to the vehicle roof;
a first connecting member moveably affixed to the first guide rail and hingedly connected to the storage surface;

a second connecting member moveably affixed to the second guide rail and hingedly connected to the storage surface wherein the first and second connecting members slide along the first and second guide rails to move the storage surface between a first position generally coincident with a roof of a vehicle and a second position wherein the storage surface being generally coincident with a side of a vehicle.

36. (NEW) The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 35 further comprising at least one mounting element affixed to the side of the vehicle

37. (NEW) The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 36 wherein the at least one mounting element further includes a recess for receiving a bunge cord.

38. (NEW) The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 36 further comprising a first track element and a second track element defining the lateral edges of the storage surface;
a hinge bar affixed between the first track element and the second track element; and

CS a collapsible rail hingedly affixed to the hinge bar wherein the collapsible rail folds down to provide for the mounting of oversized objects along the top of the vehicle when the storage surface is in the first position.

39. (NEW) The re-configurable vehicle roof rack system defined in claim 38, wherein the collapsible rail is raised when the storage surface is deployed along the side of the vehicle whereby the collapsible is operative to vertically support objects mounted on the deployed storage surface.
